

Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation Environmental Health Assessment Synopsis Octo

Total Reservation Population: 3461¹
 Total Reservation Population: 2676²
 American Indian: 96.3%
 White: 2.6%
 Other: 1.1%



Largest Community: Box Elder
 Lead Agency: Rocky Boy Er
 Advisory Group: Community Environmental Health Assessment (CEHA) Team and the Environmental Working Group (EWG)

Key Assessment Tools: Written surveys were actively administered to citizens throughout the reservation by going door to door, and through the Senior Citizens Center, Stonechild College, Social Services, High Schools, and Tribal Departments. A total of 401 completed surveys were obtained. Two focus groups and a facilitated group discussion were held to gain deeper understanding of the concerns citizens identified through the survey.

Top 10 Environmental Health Topics of Concern From 401 Survey Responses

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| 1. Drinking Water Pollution | 6. Environmental Impacts from Meth Labs |
| 2. Water Quality from Community Water Distribution System | 7. Groundwater pollution (Drainfields) |
| 3. Surface Water or Groundwater Pollution | 8. Pests (rodents, mosquitoes) |
| 4. Community Decay | 9. Heating and Plumbing |
| 5. Environmental Justice | 10. Food Safety and Cleanliness |

Top 7 Environmental Health Priorities Recommended by the Health Board

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| 1. Water Pollution (drinking water, storm water, sanitary sewer, etc.) | 5. Pests (rodents, mosquitoes) |
| 2. Community Decay | 6. Food Safety and Cleanliness |
| 3. Heating and Plumbing | 7. Environmental Justice |
| 4. Environmental Impacts from Meth Labs | |

Some Recommended Action Steps from the CEHA Team and EWG

1. Fund an Environmental Health Educator position to manage the recommended environmental health priorities and develop agency response protocol.
2. Provide community education about all aspects of the community water system.
3. Publish/distribute a newsletter to update citizens about environmental issues.
4. Develop a sampling and analysis plan and a source water protection plan for vulnerable private wells. Identify and map locations of abandoned wells.
5. Establish a system for removal, storage, and disposal of car bodies from waterways.
6. Identify resources for a pilot project to remove abandoned mobile homes.

¹ Rocky Boy's Reservation 2005 Population Estimate by Chippewa-Cree Tribes

² 2000 U.S. Census